

Table 4. Gender of the RN and LPN staff nurse workforce

Gender	Staff RNs		Staff LPNs	
	N	%	N	%
Female	310	95.7	264	96.0
Male	14	4.3	6	2.2
Data missing	0	0	5	1.8
	324	100	275	100

In the year 2000, the average age in the entire population of staff RNs in North Carolina was 41.8 and for LPNs was 46.0.^{vi} This difference in the average ages of the RN and LPN workforce has been in existence for at least the last 20 years.^{vii} The findings from our survey maintain that difference. LPN staff nurses had an average age of 44.7, compared to 42.0 for RN staff nurses. Table 5 shows how the age distributions of RN and LPN staff nurses differ. When analyzing age by race (white versus minority) within the RN and LPN staff nurse groups separately, there were no significant differences in average age between the racial groups.

Table 5. Age distribution within the RN and LPN staff nurse workforce

Age groups	Staff RNs		Staff LPNs	
	N	%	N	%
35 or under	101	31.2	60	21.8
36 to 45	106	32.7	80	29.2
46 to 55	83	25.6	94	34.2
56 or older	33	10.2	39	14.2
Data missing	1	0.3	2	0.7
	324	100	275	100.1
χ^2 p-value	0.0110			

Employment Characteristics

As noted earlier, staff nurses included in this study were employed in nursing at the time they completed the survey, were providing direct patient care as part of their nursing position, and were employed in either a staff / general duty position, as an office nurse, a home care nurse, or were in a charge nurse or team leader position. Tables 6 through 15 profile how much and where staff nurses work, and how those work characteristics interact with staff nurses' personal demographics.